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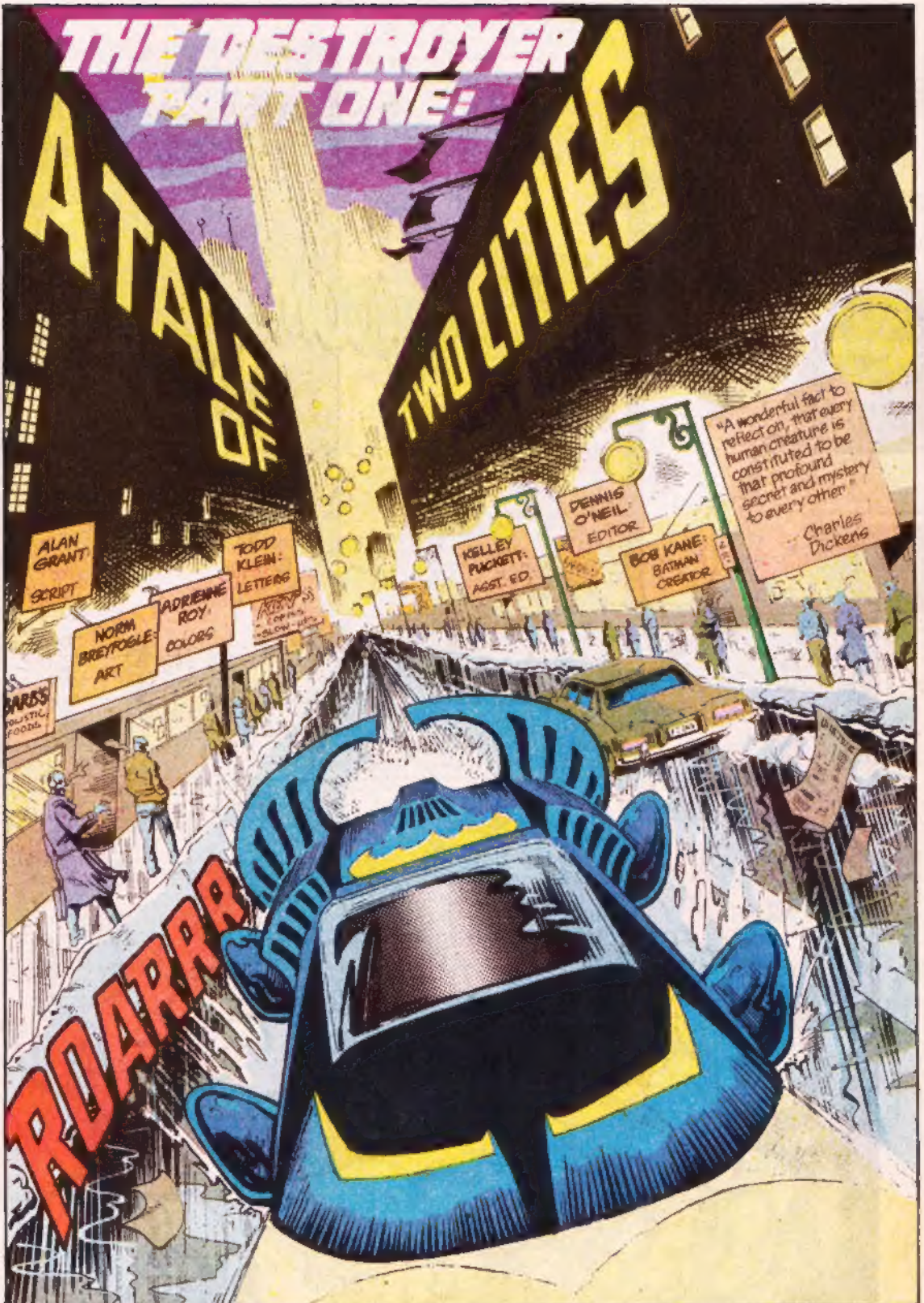
DESTROYER
ROUGHER


THE DESTROYER
PART ONE:
A TALE OF
TWO CITIES
ALAN GRANT: SCRIPT
TODD KLEIN: LETTERING
NORM BREYFOGLE: ART
ADRIENNE ROY: COLORS
KELLEY PUCKETT: ASST. ED.
DENNIS O'NEIL: EDITOR
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"A wonderful fact to reflect on, that every human creature is constituted to be that profound secret and mystery to every other."
-- Charles Dickens
ROARRR

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IT TOOK 180 MEN THREE MONTHS TO PUT UP THE MURRAY BUILDING. SEVEN OF THEM DIED DURING CONSTRUCTION.
MURRAY BUILDING
A HIGH PRICE TO PAY FOR A SOULLESS CONCRETE BOX.
FOR FORTY YEARS ITS STARK HALLS AND TINY ROOMS WERE HOME TO AN EVER-SHIFTING TIDE OF GOTHAM'S POOREST--
WHOOMF
MURRAY BUILDING
TILL FINALLY ITS DAMP, UGLY SQUALOR DROVE EVEN THEM OUT. ROACHES AND RATS CLAIM IT NOW.
MURRAY BUILDING
IT TOOK ONLY EIGHT POUNDS OF SEMTEX HIGH EXPLOSIVE, QUARTERED AND STRATEGICALLY PLACED, TO BRING THE WHOLE THING DOWN--
RUMMBBBL
--AND NO ONE WILL MOURN ITS PASSING.

ACROSS THE CITY, THE WINTER MOON KISSES A SILENT SHADOW--
BACK'S ALL SET. TIME I WENT IN--
WHAT--?
CHSH!
UUUuuu...!
HAVE TO PLAY THIS ULTRA-CAUTIOUS, NOT GIVE ZEKO A CHANCE TO DESTROY THE EVIDENCE!
NORMAN ROCKWELL LIVES, HUH?

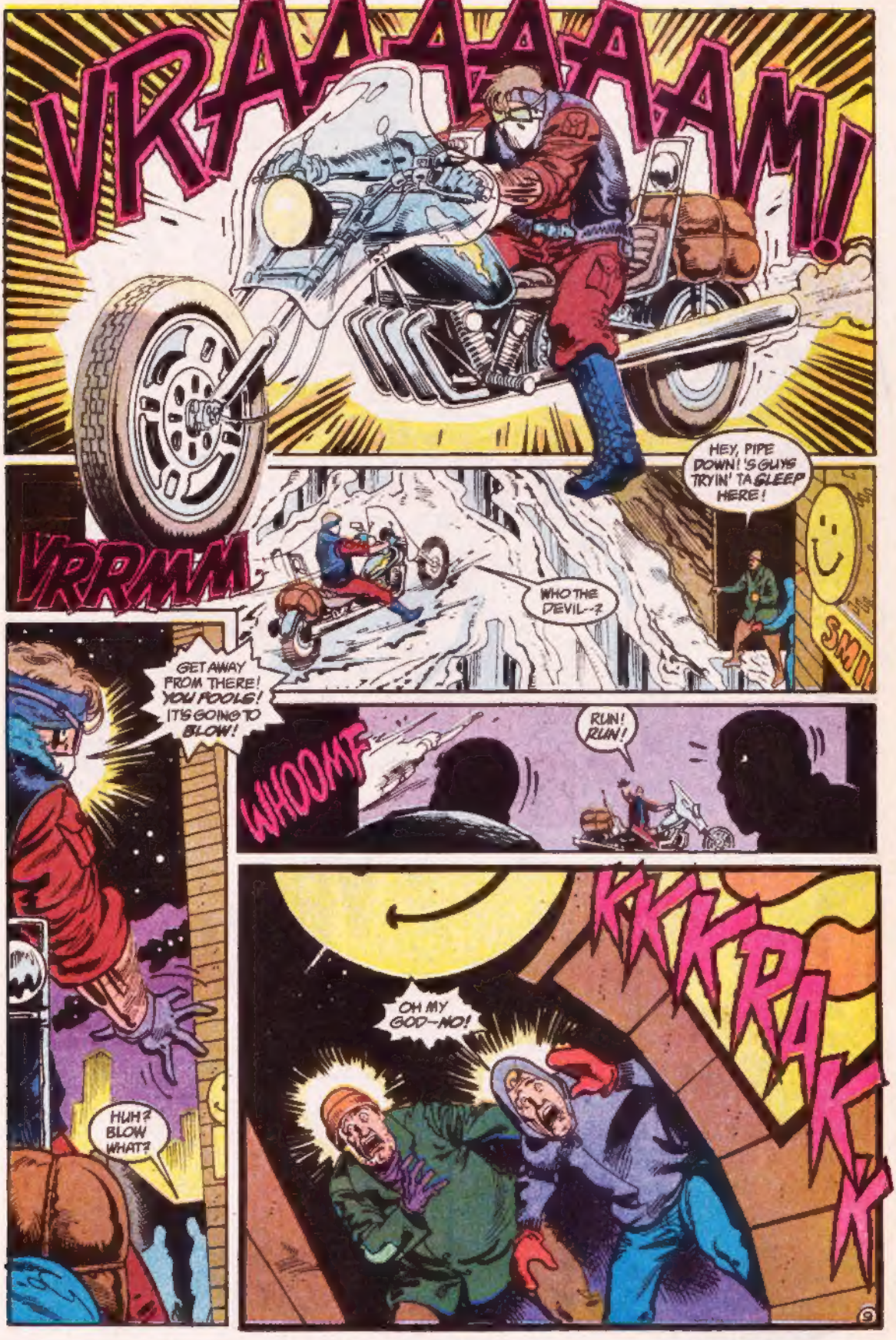
YOU'RE A GENIUS, MR. ZEKO! I CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE!
YA SHOULDA BEEN A REAL PAINTER!
NO STYLE OF MY OWN, LEFTY. THAT'S MY PROBLEM.
NOT THAT I'M COMPLAININ'! WE KEEP UP THIS RATE OF PRODUCTION, THERE'LL BE MORE ZEKO FAKES ON AMERICAN WALLS THAN THERE ARE ROCKWELL ORIGINALS!
FRAME IT READY TO SHIP.
YOU GOT THESE AUCTION SCHEDULES SORTED OUT YET, HENKS?
DON'T BOTHER. YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THEM!
THE BATMAN--!
GET OUT OF HERE!
HENKS-- BURN THOSE FILES!
ZWEEEEEEEE
UH-UH! THE POLICE ARE GOING TO WANT THAT!
YANK!
BOOT!
UNGHH!
6

'S OKAY, BOSS! I DON'T THINK HE'S FOLLOWIN'--
FIRE EXIT
A TRAP--!
GLAD YOU DECIDED TO STICK AROUND, ZEKO. THE POLICE HAVE A WHOLE LIST OF QUESTIONS THEY WANT TO ASK YOU!
YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG! WE'RE NOT CRIMINALS!
WE WEREN'T IN IT FOR THE MONEY--WE ONLY DID IT FOR THE ART!
BETTER HOPE FOR A CULTURE-LOVING JUDGE, THEN!
WE GOT YOUR MESSAGE, BATMAN. WHERE--?
ROUND BACK.
YOU'LL FIND ALL THE DETAILS YOU NEED IN HERE.
GLAD YOU'RE ON OUR SIDE, PAL. PITY YOU COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING ABOUT THE EXPLOSION--
COME AGAIN?
MURRAY BUILDING ON TENTH STREET. IT'S LIKE A WAR-ZONE, BY ALL ACCOUNTS!
KLIK
RROARRR

--MIRACLE NO ONE WAS HURT!
ANY IDEA WHAT CAUSED IT, CHIEF? GAS MAIN, MAYBE?
UNLIKELY, SERGEANT. THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION SHOULD'VE THROWN DEBRIS HUNDREDS OF YARDS AWAY!
IT WAS NO ACCIDENT, SERGEANT ESSEN. IT WAS A PRO JOB--A DEMOLITION.
STRATEGIC FOUNDATIONS WERE BLOWN, AND THE BUILDING COLLAPSED IN ON ITSELF.
I'D HAVE TO AGREE WITH THAT, MA'AM.
BUT-- WHY? WHO WOULD WANT TO DEMOLISH A DERELICT BUILDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
TERRORISTS, MAYBE. YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOU GET THEIR DEMANDS!
AH WELL, AT LEAST IT'S IMPROVED THE VIEW!
THE COMMISSIONER'S NOT HERE. NOTHING WRONG, I HOPE?
NO, HE'S FINE. FOLLOWING HIS HEART DISEASE REVERSAL PROGRAM RELIGIOUSLY. HIS BLOOD PRESSURE'S NORMAL -- CHOLESTEROL DOWN--ZERO TOBACCO-- AND WALKING THREE MILES A DAY.
STILL NOT WELL ENOUGH FOR OVERTIME, THOUGH!

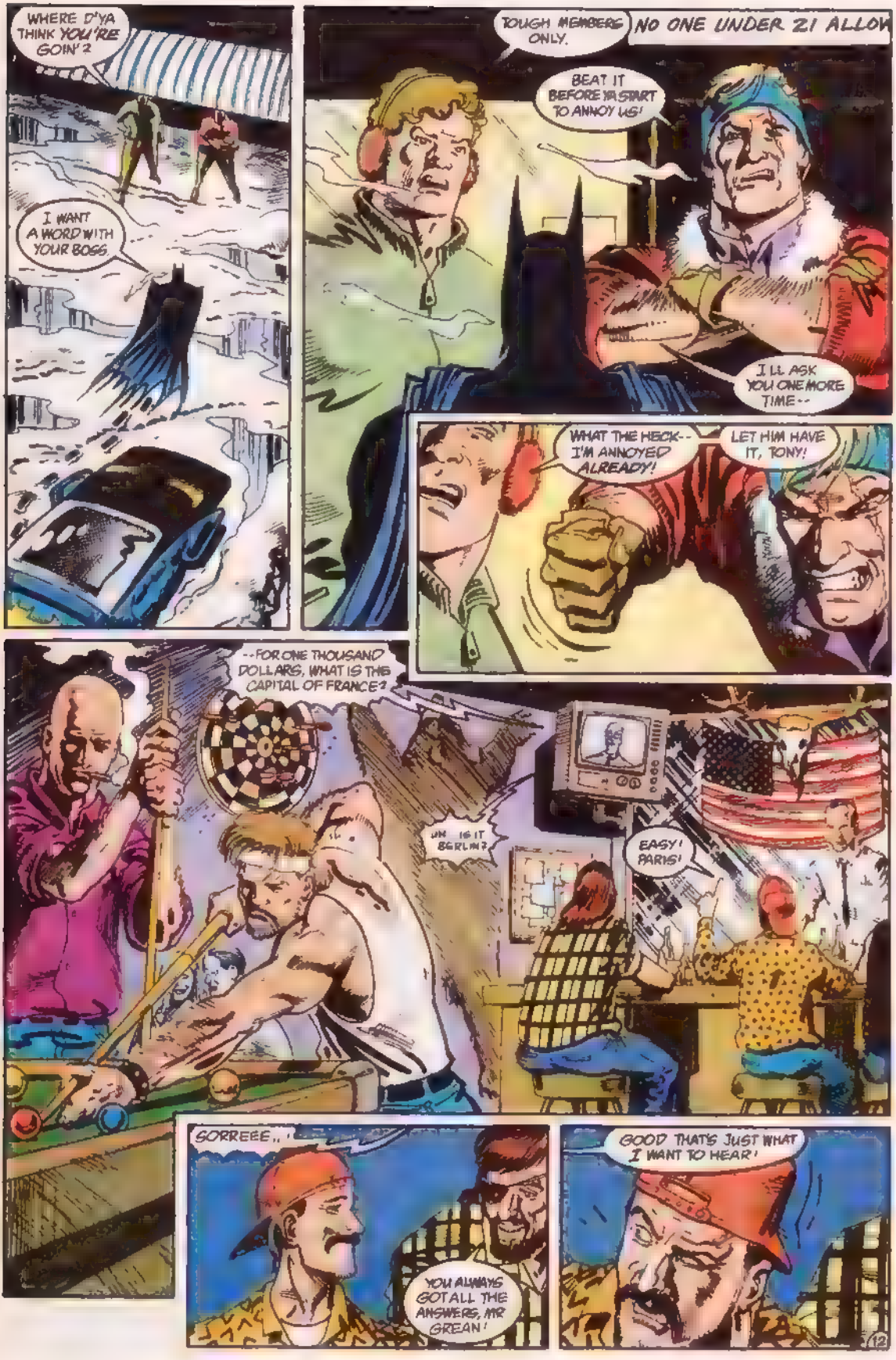
HE'S A CHANGED MAN. IT'S AMAZING WHAT POSITIVE THINKING AND A LITTLE EFFORT CAN DO.
GIVE HIM MY REGARDS.
RROARR
OF COURSE. AND IF YOU TURN UP ANYTHING ON THIS EXPLOSION, YOU WILL LET ME...
...KNOW?

SMILEY'S WENT UP IN THE SUMMER OF LOVE. BIGGEST STORE IN GOTHAM AT THE TIME.
THIS'LL DO NICELY, EH?
LIVE IN A BOX, SHOP IN A BOX, DIE IN A BOX. ROBOTS, THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT. NOT PEOPLE. ROBOTS THAT CONSUME.
SMILEY SUPER STORE
YESSIR, CLEAR OUT THIS OLD TRASH AN' WE GOT US A REGULAR HOME AWAY FROM HOME!
STRAIGHT LINES--SHARP ANGLES--SQUARE BOXES--
LI'L NIGHTCAP, MAYBE?
NO WONDER THE CITY'S GONE MAD!
8

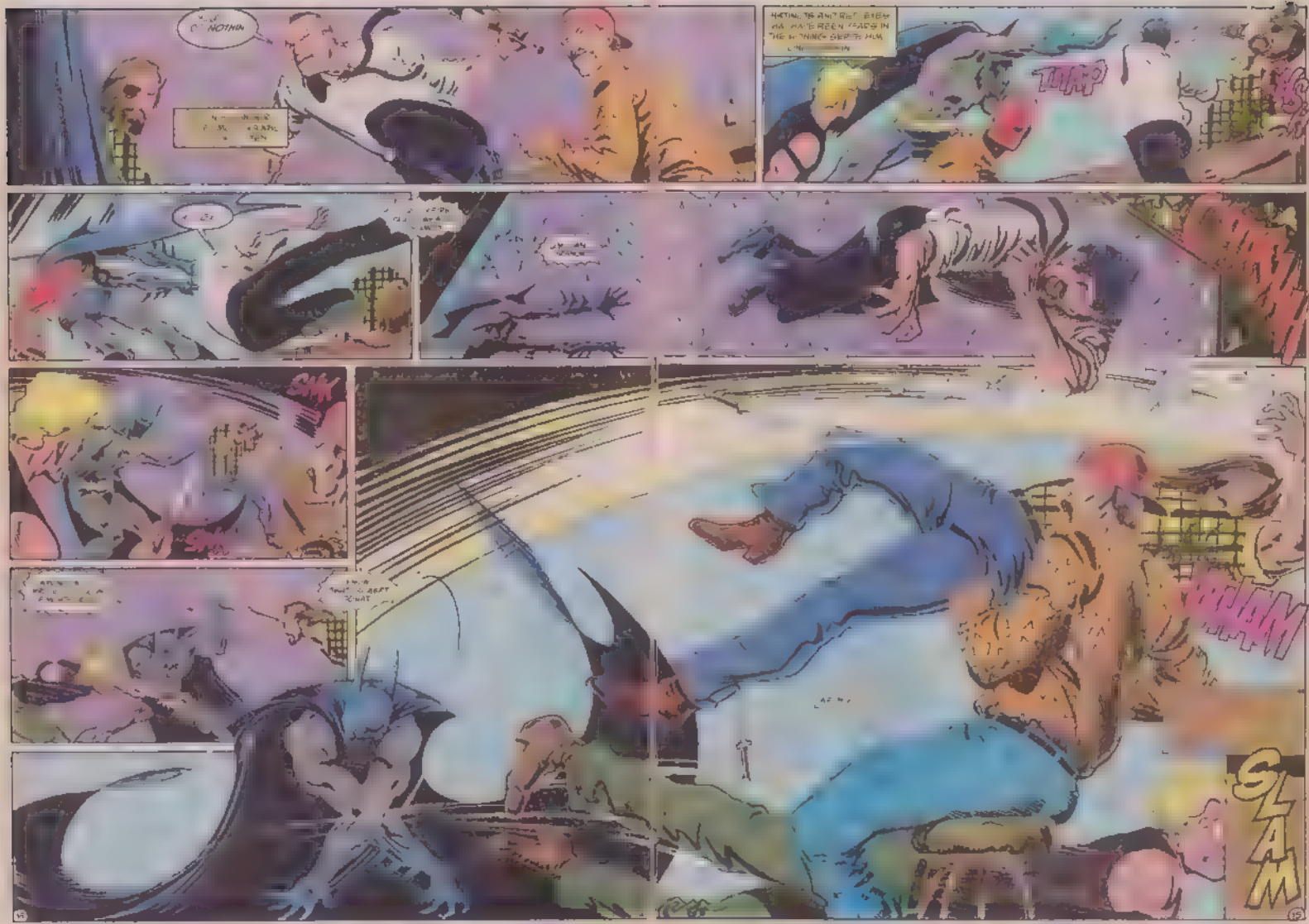

VRAAAAAAM!
VRRMM
HEY, PIPE DOWN! 'S GUYS TRYIN' TA SLEEP HERE!
WHO THE DEVIL--?
GET AWAY FROM THERE! YOU FOOLS! IT'S GOING TO BLOW!
WHOOMF
RUN! RUN!
HUH? BLOW WHAT?
OH MY GOD--NO!
KKKRAKK

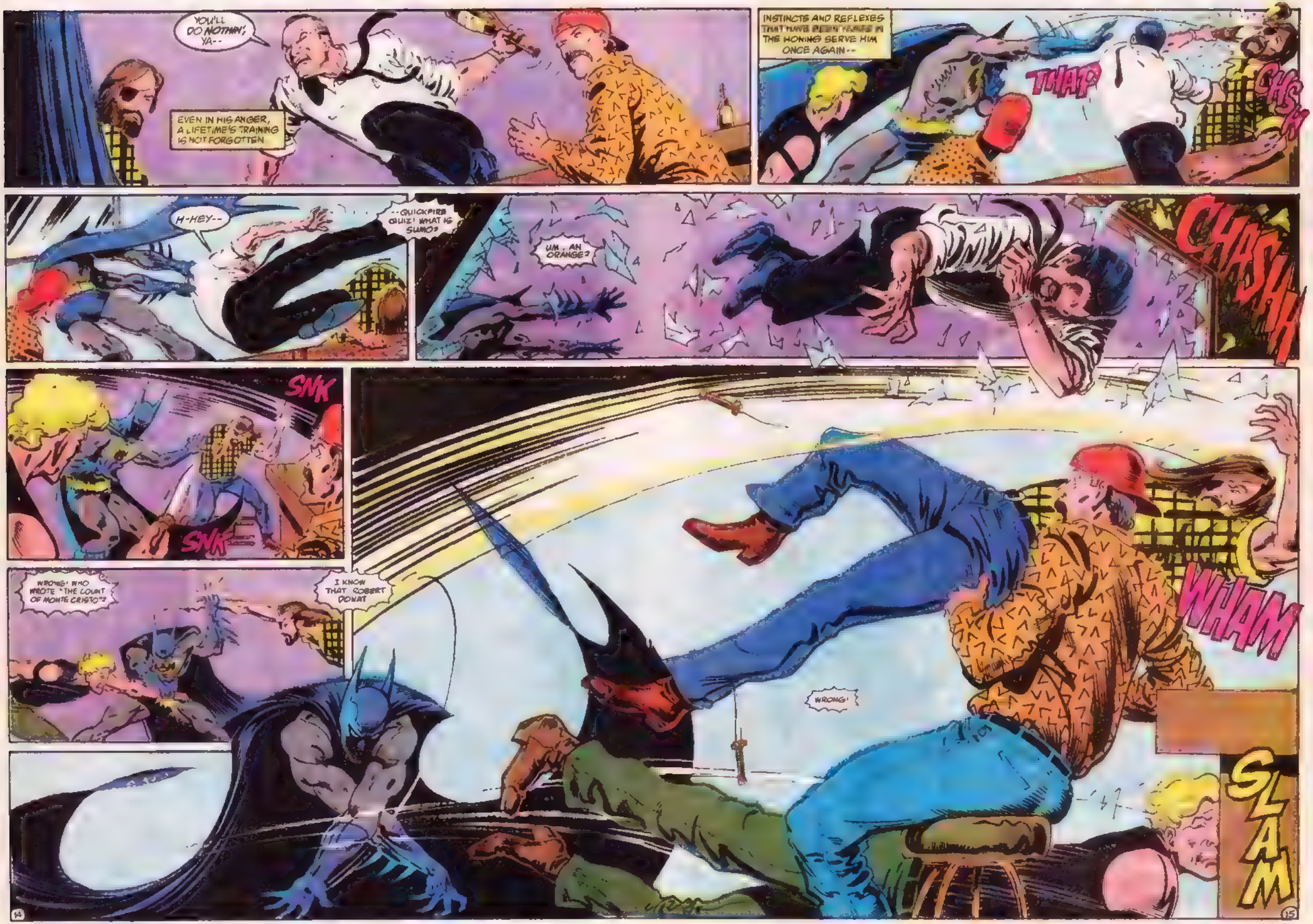
RUMMBLLLLLL
SMILEY SUPER CT.
I--I'M SORRY. I NEVER... MEANT TO HURT ANYONE!
HU-HUU-- HUUUUUH!
VRRMM
ROARR
--ALL UNITS VICINITY THE OLD SMILEY SUPER STORE! REPORTS OF ANOTHER EXPLOSION--

SAME AS THE MURRAY BUILDING--A TOTAL PRO JOB--
SMILEY SUPER STORE
EXCEPT FOR THESE POOR WRETCHES!
I TOLD ESSEN TERRORISTS... BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE A LOT OF SENSE THERE WOULD'VE BEEN DEMANDS
MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE IT REEKS OF INSURANCE SCAM!
LET'S JUST SEE WHAT AN [redacted] TURNS UP...!
TK TK TK TK TK TK
BOTH BUILDINGS OWNED BY ONE STEWART GREAN --ALSO OWNS A DIVE OVER ON MADISON--
"TIME TO GO CLUBBING!"
GREANS Club
SKREEEE


WHERE D'YA THINK YOU'RE GOIN'?
I WANT A WORD WITH YOUR BOSS.
TOUGH MEMBERS ONLY.
NO ONE UNDER 21 ALLOW
BEAT IT BEFORE YA START TO ANNOY US!
I'LL ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME--
WHAT THE HECK-- I'M ANNOYED ALREADY!
LET HIM HAVE IT, TONY!
--FOR ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS, WHAT IS THIS CAPITAL OF FRANCE?
UH... IS IT BERLIN?
EASY! PARIS!
SORREEE..
YOU ALWAYS GOT ALL THE ANSWERS, MR GREAN!
GOOD THAT'S JUST WHAT I WANT TO HEAR!

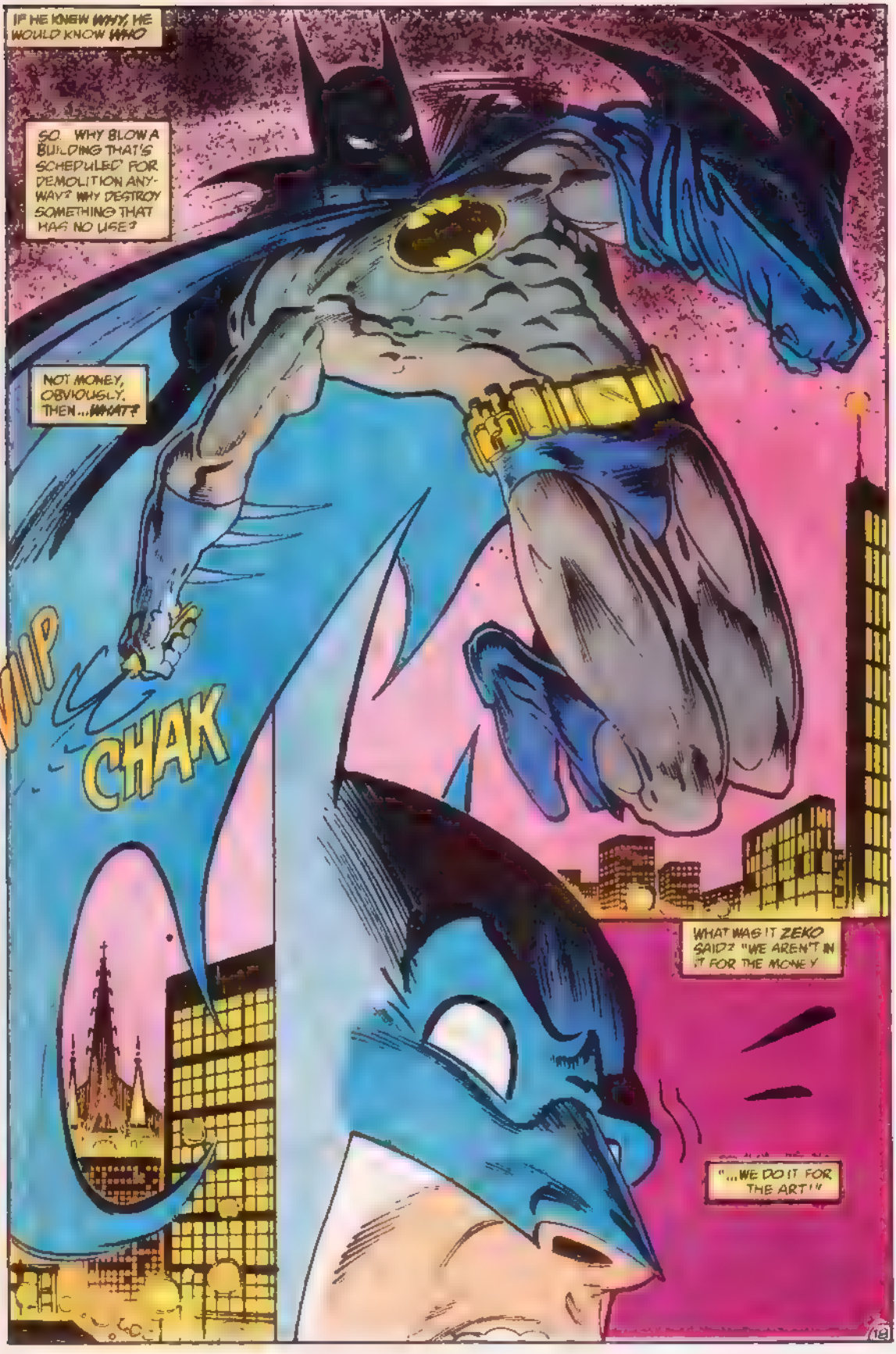
THIS IS PERSONAL BUSINESS UNTIL I COUNT TO TEN, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING OR RECOGNIZED ANYONE HERE.
ONE
TWO
THREE
FOUR
FIVE
YOU GOT NO RIGHT SCARIN' OFF MY CUSTOMERS! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?
MURDER, GREAN
YOU OWN THE MURRAY BUILDING AND THE SMILEY STORE YOU KNOW THEY WERE BOTH BLOWN UP TONIGHT?
SURE SAW IT ON THE NEWS, DIDN'T I? LUCKY I HAD 'EM INSURED, HUH?
TWO MEN DIED!
WHO CARES? THEY SHOULDN'T BE STAYIN' IN MY PROPERTY WITHOUT PAYIN' RENT!
L-LISTEN, I DIDN'T DEMOLISH 'EM! I BEEN HERE ALL NIGHT! RIGHT, BOYS?
I'VE A GOOD MIND TO TEACH YOU A LESSON IN TELLING THE TRUTH!
YOU CALLOUS PIECE OF FILTH!
CRASH
13

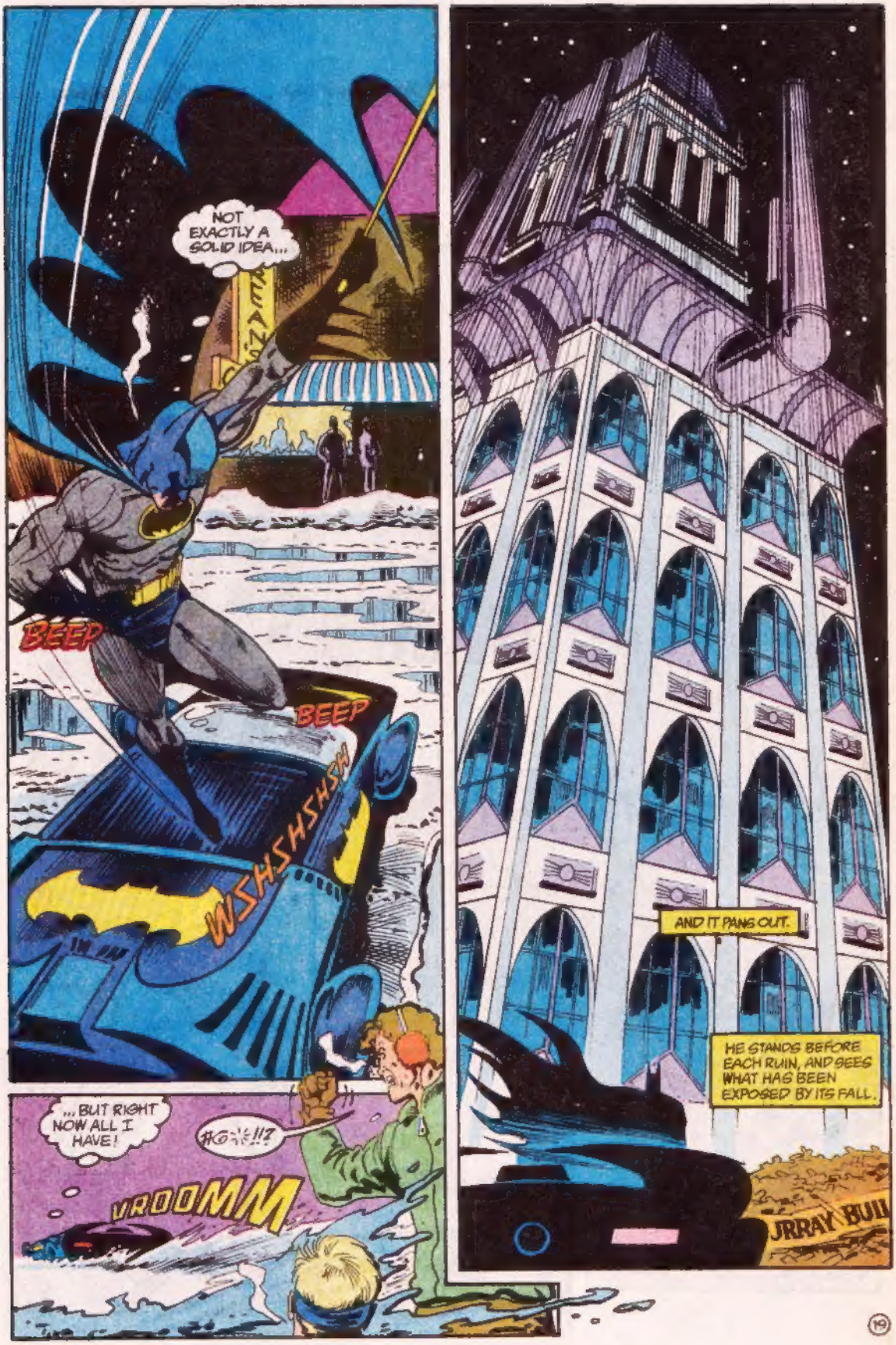

NOTHIN
THUD
SNK
SLAM

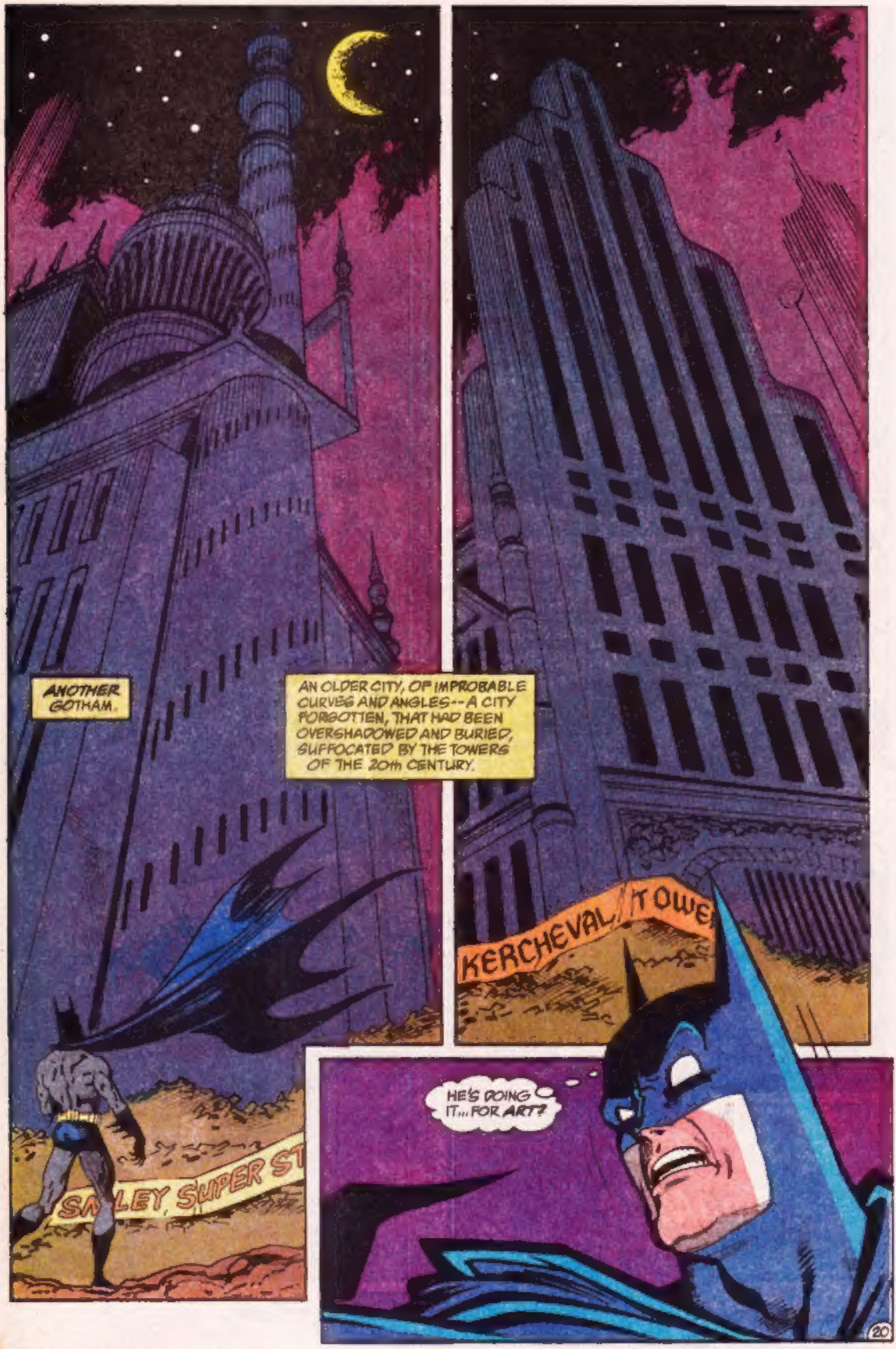

YOU'LL DO NOTHIN', YA--
EVEN IN HIS ANGER, A LIFETIME'S TRAINING IS NOT FORGOTTEN
INSTINCTS AND REFLEXES THAT HAVE BEEN YEARS IN THE HONING SERVE HIM ONCE AGAIN--
THAP
CHSH
H-HEY--
--QUICKFIRE QUIZ! WHAT IS SUMO?
UM, AN ORANGE?
CHASHK
SNK
SNK
WRONG! WHO WROTE "THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO"?
I KNOW THAT ROBERT DONAT
WRONG!
WHAM
SLAM

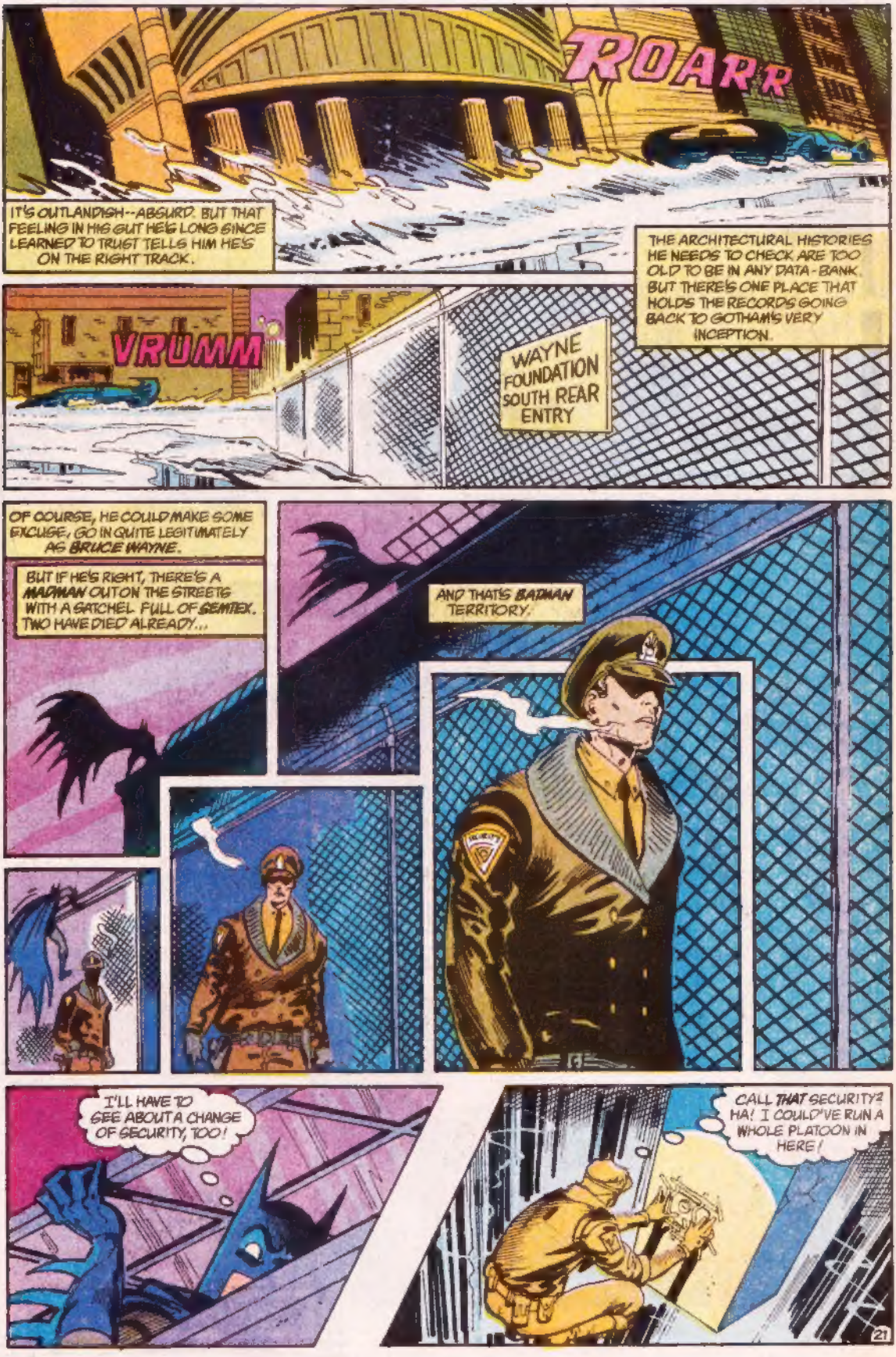
READY TO CHANGE YOUR STORY?
I--I TOLD YA--IT WASN'T ME! I SWEAR--!
I DON'T LIKE LIARS, GREAN
P-PLEASE... DON'T HURT ME...!
WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR A NEWSFLASH-
A THIRD BUILDING HAS BEEN DESTROYED IN DOWNTOWN GOTHAM! MINUTES AGO, THE CITY-OWNED KIRKMEYAL TOWER - WHICH WAS SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION NEXT MONTH - CRASHED TO THE GROUND
SO FAR, THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF INJURIES
NOW, BACK TO QUIZ NIGHT
SEE? I TOLD YA IT WASN'T ME! WHY WOULD I BLOW A CITY BUILDING?
MAYBE YOU ARE INNOCENT, GREAN. THIS TIME
BUT YOU'RE FILTH. I WANT YOU TO KNOW--FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE WATCHING YOUR EVERY MOVE
THE FIRST TIME YOU STEP OUT OF LINE-
BAMM
--WILL BE THE LAST TIME!
16

KLK
FINISHED WITH THIS, BOYS? THANKS
NO HARD FEELINGS, I HOPE
KEEP AN EYE ON THE CAR, WILL YOU?
Club
PAF
WHEN ME NEEDS TO THINK, ME TAKES TO THE NIGHT
HENCE MEIGHTENED SORWEBS DRIVEN OUT BY THE CRISP AIR - ME CAN FOCUS ON HIS PROBLEM
CHNK
THREE BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED ALL PRO JOBS THE DEAD HOBOS WERE MERELY UNFORTUNATE
ZWEEEEEEEEEEEEE
17


IF HE KNEW WHY, HE WOULD KNOW WHO
SO. WHY BLOW A BUILDING THAT'S SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION ANYWAY? WHY DESTROY SOMETHING THAT HAS NO USE?
NOT MONEY, OBVIOUSLY. THEN...WHAT?
VIIP
CHAK
WHAT WAS IT ZEKO SAID? "WE AREN'T IN IT FOR THE MONEY
"...WE DO IT FOR THE ART!"


NOT EXACTLY A GOLD IDEA...
BEEP
BEEP
WSHSHSHSH
...BUT RIGHT NOW ALL I HAVE!
#G*!?!!?
VROOMM
AND IT PANS OUT.
HE STANDS BEFORE EACH RUIN, AND SEES WHAT HAS BEEN EXPOSED BY ITS FALL.
JRRAY BULL


ANOTHER GOTHAM.
AN OLDER CITY, OF IMPROBABLE CURVES AND ANGLES--A CITY FORGOTTEN, THAT HAD BEEN OVERSHADOWED AND BURIED, SUFFOCATED BY THE TOWERS OF THE 20th CENTURY.
KERCHEVAL
HE'S DOING IT... FOR ART?
20


ROARR
IT'S OUTLANDISH--ABSURD. BUT THAT FEELING IN HIS GUT HE'S LONG SINCE LEARNED TO TRUST TELLS HIM HE'S ON THE RIGHT TRACK.
THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIES HE NEEDS TO CHECK ARE TOO OLD TO BE IN ANY DATA-BANK. BUT THERE'S ONE PLACE THAT HOLDS THE RECORDS GOING BACK TO GOTHAM'S VERY INCEPTION.
VRUMM
WAYNE FOUNDATION SOUTH REAR ENTRY
OF COURSE, HE COULD MAKE SOME EXCUSE, GO IN QUITE LEGITIMATELY AS BRUCE WAYNE.
BUT IF HE'S RIGHT, THERE'S A MADMAN OUT ON THE STREETS WITH A SATCHEL FULL OF SEMTEX. TWO HAVE DIED ALREADY...
AND THAT'S BATMAN TERRITORY.
I'LL HAVE TO SEE ABOUT A CHANGE OF SECURITY, TOO!
CALL THAT SECURITY? HA! I COULD'VE RUN A WHOLE PLATOON IN HERE!

BUILDINGS ARE LIKE PEOPLE. THEY LIVE SOME, AND THEN THEY DIE. LIKE THOSE TRAMPS... JUST A TRAGIC ACCIDENT.
15 MIN
BUT SOME BUILDINGS NEVER GET A CHANCE. THEY'RE DWARFED AND BULLIED AND CRUSHED BY THE VULGARITIES OF GREEDY MEN.
DREAMS MEAN NOTHING WHEN MONEY IS KING.
I'M CHANGING THAT. I'M GOING TO MAKE THIS CITY REPAY ITS DEBT. AND IF PEOPLE HAVE TO SUFFER--
--THAT'S THE PRICE GOTHAM WILL HAVE TO PAY!
WAYNE FOUNDATION EAST REAR ENTRY
TICK
TICK
TICK
12 MIN
CONTINUED IN "LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT # 27!